

REMARKS

Reexamination of the captioned application is respectfully requested.

A. SUMMARY OF THIS AMENDMENT

By the current amendment, Applicants basically:

1. Thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 21, 27 and 28.
2. Thank the Examiner for the indication of allowance of claims 2-19, 22-25, 29 and 30
3. Cancel claims 20 and 26 without prejudice or disclaimer.
4. Amend claims 21 and 27 to include therein the limitations of former claims 20 and 26, respectively, thereby rendering all claims allowable.

B. MISCELLANEOUS

In view of the foregoing and other considerations, all claims are deemed in condition for allowance. A formal indication of allowability is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the undersigned's deposit account #14-1140 in whatever amount is necessary for entry of these papers and the continued pendency of the captioned application.

Should the Examiner feel that an interview with the undersigned would facilitate allowance of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: 
H. Warren Burnam, Jr.

KUBO et al.
Serial No. **09/810,463**

Reg. No. 29,366

HWB:lsh
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100